
S Y M P T O M S

O F

A D V I C E.

1934



Dover. 1797

Symptoms of Advice,
K TO THE
O * * * * * R S
OF AN
AMPHIBIOUS CORPS;
WITH
N O T I C E S
OF
N * * * L C H A R A C T E R.

QUI CAPIT, ILLE FACIT.

Anglicè;

WHERE THE CAP FITS, WEAR IT.

By A QUONDAM SUB.

L O N D O N:

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D E D I C A T E D,

(Without Permission,)

T O

J O H N,

EARL OF CHATHAM.



P R E F A C E.

AT that unjudging stage of life, when the gaudy display of a soldier's appointments fascinates the deviating eye; allured by the gaiety of plumage, and the martial ferocity of a well-cock'd hat, I by election became a red-coated enthusiast.—After an unrestrain'd indulgence, for some time, in the youthful propensity to personal decoration, and the frivolities of military puppyism, my views were elevated

to

to that ultimate reward, which incites and supports the candidate for celebrity, through the rugged path which leads to its attainment.—Uninform'd of the inferior and negative description of corps selected for my probationary initiation, I could not entertain a doubt but that it would enjoy the same general field for glory with other military bodies.—Having by a few weeks parade attention, become tolerably proficient in the mechanical routine of establish'd ceremony, I was pronounced to be so finish'd in the knowledge of tactics, as to be competent to the charge of a detachment, and hurried upon the fortuitous jumble of n—l service.

service. Inflated with the consequence of newly-invested command, my mind unremittingly held in its eye, as the basis of future procedure, the notions which I had imbibed of parade and etiquette. Heavens! what were my emotions, when I beheld the "pomp, pride, and circumstance of glorious war," compressed within the humiliating limitations of a m—— of w——; where unguided tumult and undisciplin'd confusion involved all arrangement in one universal chaos!—Jealous of that regularity of appearance and movement in the m——s which condemn'd their total disregard of them; and irritated by the implied censure which

which comparison must stigmatize them with, I soon found that the n—l trumpeters* labor'd hard to ease me from the burdensome drudgery of command, and level the distinction of uniform propriety, which discipline decidedly marks, by imposing on them such tasks, as sunk them in their own estimation, by insulting their military pride. These mortifications, however, I withstood with stoicism, still Quixotically believing that the object of ambitious search existed in every clime where a power inimical to Great Britain could be encountred.—But after

* An appellation by which the l—ts of the n—y are emphatically and properly distinguished.

suffering

suffering the parching fervency of a tropical sun, as well as the unbearing alienation of his rays; I was, by fatiguing experience and disgusting observation convinced, that tho' there be such a national tribute to estimated character as the LAUREL WREATH, it never trophies the brow of a M---e. A single consideration will account for this apparent dearth of prowess and conduct; namely, that the o---rs of that corps being but seldom trusted with the sole management of an expedition, the official recital of their services is penn'd by others; and how profusely they have been dignified with the burnishing language of panegyric,
will

will be evinced by informing, that in the course of the last wide-extended war on both elements, there are only two names pointedly specified as giving testimony of unusual gallantry; and these unfortunately in n—l situations, where it was expedient to amplify on subordinate circumstances, in order to give magnitude and importance to the narrative.

*Then who the d—l would be
a M——E?*

THE AUTHOR.

S Y M P T O M S
O F

A D V I C E, &c.

Aug. 8.

T H E predicament of your
corps is particularly distressing
and singular ;---disclaimed by the
a----y as a m-----y body, your ac-
quisition of fame is regarded with
a depreciating jealousy incompat-
ible with that elevation of senti-
ment, which should warm the bo-
B som

fom of a foldier :---Intolerable to
 the n----y, from being the only
 curb to that licentious fpirit of
 turbulence and fedition, which,
 on a late memorable occafion,
 had nearly degraded the R---l
 N---y of G---t B-----n to
 purpofes of PIRATICAL DEPRE-
 DATION. When united in mu-
 tual effort with the former, I fear
 a fhade has been thrown on at-
 chievements, which fhould not
 only have braved the day, but
 have been recorded in terms of
 admiring eulogium ; and I well
 know what portion of glory the
 engroffing

engrossing grasp of n---l despotism can allow to others, where it holds the situation of supremacy. In short, THE LAURELS WHICH YOU WIN, OTHERS WEAR. Thus situated, your conduct must continue to be such as will defy the breath of defamation, I would therefore advise you to carry in your minds, that bit of sententious Latin,

“PER MARE ET TERRAM,”
 so that when other corps with reluctance shew the colour of their facings to an entrenched enemy, you never leave off dusting

away the pipe-clay, and dashing
THROUGH THIN AND THICK.

“ In the multitude of counsellors there *may* be safety.” As
c——g officer, you will not
fail to avail yourself of this maxim, and to employ your talents
and discretion in modelling a
divan, that shall be able wisely to
decide on the various departments
included in the duty of your comprehensive station. For matters
of etiquette and parade, fix on
the merest machine you can find;
one, whose recollection of forms
is

is not likely to be disturbed by too many changes of ideas. If you can select an officer who manœuvred so well as always to escape the risk of being scorched by hostile fire, by all means let him regulate the military evolutions. For a masterly knowledge of internal barrack proceedings, you cannot choose a more proper man, than he who has, by his own *intrinsic* merit, exerted within their walls, raised himself from the halberd to important rank.—And so of the other parts; in all which you will receive ample information.

tion and support from discharged troopers, bankrupt stocking-weavers, and *booing* S_____n. An association of this kind will not escape the observation of the subalterns; for you will be well satisfied, if they give it no worse name than *inquisition*, or *star-chamber*.

You will naturally endeavour to procure the management of the contract for shirts, that they may be made as æconomical and sufficient as possible. If you can throw the stitching and cutting part of the job into the hands of

a deserving family of *autumnal maidens*, it is an act of humanity which must gain you credit. Besides, the ladies from motives of delicacy, will at least make the shirts long enough to meet the soldiers breeches. Or if they should take a *brief* field officer for their standard of measurement, a private must be unreasonable indeed who grumbles at a shirt long enough for a m——r!

If you happen to command, when the reduction from a war to a peace establishment takes place,
there

there is an opportunity for a display of abilities which you will hardly overlook. A standard for the stature of men, thought best for service, is then fixed by the higher powers, but you are left the judge of its application. It may be a proposition of doubt with those who have no *finger* in the business, but you have *weighty* reasons to be assured, that the man who stands upon five guineas to ascertain his height, has a richer title to his discharge, than he who erects his pretensions on his stocking soles. In this latitudinarian business,

business, however, you have no occasion to appear, there being f——f underlings enough, who will take all the odium upon themselves, for the sake of a moderate share of the spoil.

It may be said, perhaps, that you sacrifice every consideration for the appearance of the battalion, in retaining *King John's men*. But what is appearance, when compared with solid advantage? For it is an ascertained fact, that the body of men which exposes least surface to the enemy, gives

gives least work to the surgeon ;
 and the less space m——s occupy
 on board a M-n of W-r, the
 less will they be in the way of
 ratans and other instruments of
 n——l tyranny.

In the prosecution of the foregoing scheme, you will do well to take care that the n-n c——d characters which you employ as agents, are sufficiently drilled to your purpose ; for in the distribution of the loaves and fishes a difference of opinion may arise.—I knew an instance where a discontented

tented h——r threatened to lay open a scene, *black as Ink*: — 'Tis true, there might be a satisfaction in reflecting that *this ground* would bear no false colouring.

If an old c——n by some act of presumption, incurs the displeasure of the f——ns, it would be absurd to think of sending him into military exile at Coventry, or any such mechanical place, where he would be so much at home: If you mean to make a proper example of him, send him to St. J——s's.

A f——n of spirit will be ambitious of an appointment in one of the flank companies:—If he cannot bear being *cut out of his feathers*, let him be stretched into the lengthened form of a grenadier; an additional portion of black bear's skin on his head, and cold iron by his side, will wonderfully assist the character: besides, as it is more than probable that the c——y wants a foil, deficiency of figure will rather be a recommendation. If he is doomed to the fatigues of the left flank, let his jacket be cut close to his rump,

rump, that no one may be able to *sit on his skirts*: It will also be of use in a retreat from the civilian police-guard, or dock-yard men, who are known to wage incessant war with the military.

Where no honor can be acquired by fighting, it is found policy to quit the field. I was witness to a case, where a f——n being unprovokedly maltreated by the mobility in the streets of a garrison town, conceiving he had no chance with such an host of foes, challenged a butcher to single combat

combat on the spot; but being no great pugilist, and recognizing the knight of the cleaver to be one celebrated for giving ugly thumps, he surmounted the ring with a harlequin vault, and trooped off with his best speed;—when a pursuit was attempted, he called out, “you may run and be d——d, but I’m *copper-bottom’d*.”

As there is an invincible enmity subsisting between the m——s in garrison and John Bull behind the counter, you will have no difficulty in forming a *maasticating* committee

committee of half a dozen three pounders, and four *bottle* men, whose business it shall be to quarter on these warm mohairs, and lay them under the most severe of all military contributions, dinners and wine. If the Dutchman's notion of English character is justly founded, this will prove the best security for the virtue of their wives and daughters. When the Cape of Good Hope was threatened with a visit from that dreadful armada, which was to blow up the Lion's Rump*, and batter the Table Hill* to d____n, this fa-

* Two remarkable Hills near Cape Town.

pient Mynheer, while his neighbours were busied in secreting or sending off into the interior country their women and other valuables, employed his slaves in massacring and dressing live stock, and knocking the heads out of his wine casks; giving as his reason, "that if John Englishman had enough to (eat and) drink, he would not think of rape or plunder."

If a limb of the law is seized with a qualm of unconstitutional generosity, and invites you (gentlemen of the committee) to

a convivial repast, after you have drank him under the table, and his cellar dry, commit indiscriminately to the flames, all such bits of parchment as appear to militate against the personal freedom of the subject. Thus, as a piece of casual fun and frolic, you do an act of friendly policy, which, unlike Herod's, destroys to save.

If in your military evolutions you can introduce a nautical phrase at times with adroitness, it may procure you favour in the hour of em——n. For instance,

c

when

when manœuvring the battalion on a field-day, instead of the word of command, "By the right wing on the centre change your front," bellow with a voice in bass unison with that of a boatswain's mate, "Starboard wing, see all clear for going about;" or when, on another occasion, the grenadiers march beyond the ground where you meant them to wheel, exclaim, "d—n your eyes, grenadiers, you have overshot your port." This will be a tributary preference to n——l d——e which is so plentifully dignified with

DAMN'D

DAMN'D rhetorical figure, and should forcibly recommend you as a member of an upright seaport-town corporation. But none under the rank of f---d o---r must presume to introduce such innovations in the established words of command.

In your monthly readings of the articles of war, do not confide that duty to the adjutant, as he will make such a *hash* of plain matters, by the hurry of getting through the task, that a recruit will conclude they relate to some-

thing which the old soldier is only to know. For the purpose, therefore, that none may pretend ignorance, let them be read by a f—d o——r, that excels in distinction of emphasis and chastity of pronunciation, as well as dignity of deportment; and not as I have known, with the accent of a deserter from Dunkirk, and the cramped gait of a galley-slave. This exotic m——e production, when going through the article of contempt to f——r o——rs, exhibited such an extravagant *pas seul* of frantic gesture, that it was naturally

naturally concluded, the angry
corns which studded his toes had
been recently trod upon.

In mixed walking parties composed of officers from different corps, when a ditch or slough forms an unexpected obstacle to the general progress, it becomes a point of emulation to overcome the difficulty by a feat of activity. If your excessive *gravity*, or any other cause, conspires against the hopes of a successful exertion, wait patiently 'till the last, as there is a chance that some skip-jack

jack-caperer or another will establish a kind of half-way resting place for your convenience: If disappointed, you have only to put the best countenance on the matter, and as you set off, call out, "Here goes for de honeur of de m——e:" If you fall short, and ingulphed to the eyes in mud,—no matter;—it is the stronger proof how deeply you have the honor of the corps at heart, however inglorious for the moment your situation may be. There can be little danger of your being suffocated, unless you are
with

with a set of wicked wags, who may, for the joke's sake, take this occasion of laughing you out of your senses.

As your corps is not considered of military consequence enough to entitle it to the observation of the ROYAL DUKE'S MARTIAL EYE, the anniversary of the MONARCH'S nativity is the day on which it is expected that the o——s appear, *at least alike* in their dress and appointments. As this happens but once a year, it should not be looked on as a hardship. But I have
heard,

heard, that on an occasion of this kind, when new epaulets and laced hats were established, that a f——d o——r has been fain to dismantle the shoulders of a f——d l——t's coat, who had no breeches to appear in, and assume the hat of another, whose coat had not returned in due time from the scowerer.

But as a *squeeze* for a review, you are sometimes honoured with the personal observance of the a——y b——d. It has been powerfully exemplified, what latitude
in

in military affairs may be taken on such an occasion. The figure which you make in martial array is not the object of criticism, but the accuracy of your figures in the several offices.

When by the absence of the C——t, the l——t c——l holds the reins of d——l dominion, he should seize the opportunity of establishing the reputation of a discerning and able officer. As Frederick of Prussia was a just critic in the cock of a hat as well as the capital evolutions of an army,

my, he will do well, (tho' in distant imitation of such an illustrious model) to make minute enquiries into the most trivial neglects; but leave the great scale of default to the comprehensive mind of him who sways with undivided rule. In this microscopical pursuit, it will be necessary to have the aid of an optical glass; and even then a degree of caution in the exercise of his observation will be adviseable. I remember an instance rather apposite, where a subaltern appear'd on the parade at roll-calling with his lapells

un-

unbuttoned. On being sharply reprimanded by the commanding officer, (whose lapells were unluckily in the same exceptionable state) he replied, that he only followed his own example. "That may be," said he, "but I have the commanding officer's leave." It is humiliating at all times for an officer of rank to be obliged to fly to a quibbling subterfuge.

Never attend to the calls of humanity in behalf of the distressed wife or family of a brother officer, if you are married, as it is more
than

than probable, that you have a *woman* to provide for at home. But if one of the order of *impures*, who, perhaps, has consoled you in her purchased embraces in the hour of domestic strife or detestation, is sunk into the sombre shades of neglect and misery, by all means raise her to her wonted splendor, though you leave the partner of your bosom, and her weeping infants, without a morsel of bread to appease the cravings of unsatisfied appetite!

A f——n of *genius*, by assuming
ing

ing the character of a pupil of the Baron Munchausen, will have a fine field for its display; for the latitude which it gives in wonderful narrative, may be, by a small stretch of powers, reduced into practice. We are amused with the relation of a person having had his liver taken out of his body by surgical operation in the East-Indies, and cleansed from all impurities, (perhaps his heart would have been bettered by the process) while he sat unruffled, drinking round with his friends! But the operative part is beyond
 enter-

entertaining, it is beneficial—to himself. For instance, if after victory he is placed to prevent plunder, he may secure a portable bag of c—n for his own private picking; he may finesse advantageously at c—ds; enter into a league with a notorious m—y l—r; and a thousand other emolumentary pleasantries, which, if detected, may be passed off as *practical Munchausens*. But if he should happen to stumble on a *truism*, he should advise those who have backed him on the *old principle*, to prevent their being taken in by their betting.

If

If a g——l o——r's lady deals largely in *plain Spanish*, it will be policy in a f——n, to carry with him to all card-routs where she resorts, a box well plenished with that nasal luxury, that he may be ready at all times to supply her sniffling wants. This may procure him a plate at the annual feast, when perhaps the rusty cellar key and polished kitchen grate may lose some part of their long boasted description.

It is believed, that a late *grim administrator* had serious thoughts
of

of attacking the whole phalanx of your corps, with a weapon which he had wielded with singular success, against all ranks and denominations of n——l o——rs, called the power of innovation. This is a talisman, which, in the hands of a state magician, produces effects most sudden and pantomimical. Its principal force, however, has been directed by him against the buttons and button-holes of the several uniforms; a tendency which he is said to have imbibed since he ⁺~~was~~

~~he~~ What but a magical

+ looked up to the G — l — p
of M — s.

magical touch could have produced a full wreath of laurel on the a——l's buttons, four years after the conclusion of a war, in the conduct of which, three-fourths of them merited a ——? As this laurel, once an honorable distinction, is now degraded into a f—a-weed; as you cannot, without permission from above, throw it aside, I think you would do well to have it so ambiguously expressed on your buttons, that it may easily be mistaken for any other tree: if, for instance, it should be supposed to have an analogy to the

D cypress,

cypress, it will be no bad indication of the *penferoso* which must be imagined to cloud your minds on account of such a degeneracy.

If an attempt is made to calumniate the reputation of a b——r o——r, let there be a general assemblage of the corps immediately summoned. But in this pye-bald convention, you are not to enter upon a course of inquiry into the nature or motives of the obloquy, (especially in pacific times, when there are so few chances of a vacancy) for it is understood, that
you

you have made up your minds to condemn, unân voce ; and *if he is absent*, there is no risk in acting this manly and generous part ! Though it is one of the most beautiful features in the admired code of British legislation, not to criminate without a hearing, you thus prove it to be confined to the civilian construction of the law ; and though a military tribunal is characterized by candid investigation and honorable decision, yet as you are not *sworn in* as at a general court martial, you are

not supposed to be tied down by such troublesome considerations.

As every one can habit agreeable to a specific and explained order, it would be discovering a poverty of genius indeed, always to appear uniformly dressed, with the buckram formality of a sergeant. You will therefore give the reins to your inventive fancy in this respect—set all rule at defiance, and exhibit a display of enviable originality. Thus, for instance, the king's æconomical mandate for military mourning is
a black

a black crape round the left arm; but will it not have an appearance of much deeper woe, if you have all (even your linen) of the blackest die, except coat, hat, and shoes; especially about the beginning of the month, when there is a chance for the lapels being cleaned, which, with a green hat, will be a most elegant relief to the general *dis-*
mal. I need not add, that on duty, the *crimson* sash on a *black* ground is altogether the thing, though I have known some prefer a *buff* and *blue* stripe to give it a varied effect. If on pursuits that are best
 accom-

accomplished incog. you will be sufficiently disguised by putting on a brown coat and round hat, for your black stock, uniform breeches, and half gaters, cannot betray you. I suppose it superfluous to hint, that as you are exposed to the fuzileer extravagance of two epaulets, it would be absurd always to wear them on the shoulders: *You know a trick worth two of that.*

Though the appointment of a——t, even in times of warlike bustle, is that of a tame d——l domestic,

domestic, having little more to do than see that the "food for powder" is made up with the just proportion of ordered materials; the o——r who holds it, must not allow his prowess to rust in inglorious ease. As there is a concourse of young o——rs daily resorting to quarters, he must assume the *bauteur* which intelligence in the laboured ceremony of office, privileges to wear; and carry this mechanical superiority in such a stile, that they may be struck *all of a heap* with his fictitious importance. If frequent pointed ob-

observation, or what perhaps may
 be more easy to him, abusive re-
 proach, on their slightest error in
 their military exercises, does not
 lead any of these probationary
 warriors to demand a *pistol colloquy*,
 he may proceed to other experi-
 ments on their christian forbear-
 ance : For instance, let him have
 a list of the corps interleaved with
 blank pages, on which may be
 wrote a laconic sketch of character
 opposite to the printed names,
 which of course will not be in the
 language of encomium, except
 where he ventures to glance at
 his

his *superiors in rank*. Invite a set of these youthful novices to drink *mundungus* after morning roll-call, and before an assault is made on the rolls and butter, lay before them this book of reputation; it will damp the appetite of some no doubt, but there is a little risk of its *raising the stomach* of one or other, who will compel him to *give fight*, or commit his biographical criticisms to the flames, with fundry qualifying expletives. At all events, he has the consciousness so pleasing to a gallant mind, that

he

he is in possession of a work which
exposes him to the risk of a "*ball*
in the thorax," whenever it is pe-
rused.

END OF THE FIRST PART.



SYMPTOMS

S Y M P T O M S
O F

A D V I C E, &c.

P A R T II.

IT is surely a hacknied etiquette which obliges people to wait the introduction of dinner before they seat themselves ; therefore I think you would do well to break thro' it, and immediately on entering the mess-room, take that place at
table.

table which you deem most comfortable ; in winter, this will be of course, with your noses over the fire, to the total exclusion of strangers and invalids.

In this vile climate of ours, it happens that vegetables at all times are not equally easy to be got, which makes the sutler provide but a small quantity : In such a case it is the devil not to partake ; therefore form a junto of friends, and place your heads and shoulders together with a strong connection, round the spot on
which

which is deposited the Hesperian fruit: pay no attention to entreaty of help from another part of the table, and beware of dissecting a joint: but to prevent all risk from the stratagem of servants, I would recommend a limitation in their stature; for I well remember the feat of a grenadier, who, zealous in his master's service, over-reached one of a junto of this kind, and carried off on the point of his fork, with a triumphant flourish, no less than half a cabbage.

As soon as you have swallow'd
your

your dinner, order a water-glass, and make as great a bustle and gurgling as possible in washing your mouth, especially if you are near a stranger; for if he is eating, it will put him in mind that he has continued long enough in all conscience at that exercise.

If there is a portion of rare viands dressed in compliment to visitors, attack it instantly and with all your prowess, without damping the vigor of your appetite with soups:—the devil's in it if a member of the mess is not to have the
pre-

preference of any casual masticator.

If you are subject to the heavy charges of perfume, powder, and pipe-clay, (for these expences are not universally diffused among you) your wine-drinking may be limited; your pride, however, will not allow you to put this on the footing of confined finance: I would therefore advise you to introduce at the mess-table, a bottle of that exquisite wine which may be had on very moderate terms from some n——l c——y,
and

and while you quaff your *solitary* joy, if your countenance should give evidence of internal nausea and detestation, you can easily transfer the odium to the futler's wine ; " the very idea of which always makes you uneasy : " as a further confirmation, you may contrive on some occasion, to *whip a tizzy* (as it is elegantly termed) towards a bottle of the mefs *black strap*, but troop off after much grimace in endeavouring to swallow the first glass.

There is often to be found in
a mi-

a military mess, a party of beer-drinking Britons, who are indefatigably employ'd in devotions to the brown jug : but on certain anniversaries, in conformity to immemorial custom, become wine-bibbers : on such occasions, it would be departing from your charter, not to *kick up a rumpus* ; as you will by moderate industry, be rais'd to *alto*, before the seasoned bacchanalians are warm ; you will give free vent to riot and anarchy, which you are sure will disturb their harmony, and force them to leave you masters of the

field and the half-finish'd bottles ;
 this will be a glorious conquest,
 and something to talk of at your
 future fourpenny meetings.

If you are of that rank which
 exempts you from f—a d——y,
 (or what is emphatically called,
 the *n—t—l badger*) and live at the
 mess, your first endeavour must
 be to establish a character of im-
 portance there. This is easily
 done by a proper degree of *hau-
 teur* and masquerade gravity.
 There are instances on record, of
 men commanding great armies,
 by

by a mysterious and solemn carriage *only*, gain the reputation of great officers. If you perceive on black Monday, (the woful day of reckoning with the sutler) certain figures in the columns of pounds, shillings, and pence, of the muster-roll, marked against certain names, exceeding (in your opinion) all f——n bounds, and remaining in force, order the list of these extravagant officers to be placed in a conspicuous situation on the mantle-piece of the mess-room: this is a pretty method of providing amusement for strangers before

dinner on a winter day, and preventing them looking *blank*. Besides, as it is generally the case with those of your rank, to prefer any situation to head-quarters, it may be the means of procuring you leave to retire to a certain town of mark and notability, as an asylum for military fugitives.

If you are of that sect of anti-stoics, called grumbletonians, do not fail to express a growling discontent at every dish on the table; but more especially reprobate that which you are in the act of cramming

ming with. If you even happen to be unreasonable in your dose of mustard, which uncourteously seizes you by the nose, send the futler and his mustard both packing to the devil. Perhaps some may think of applying here the metaphor of the crickets, who are known to be most noisy in the most luxuriant harvests.

When you are by the scheme of routine (a most happy scheme indeed for those who have no other claim to preferment) taken from the line of *gentlemen*, and dubbed

on

an e——re, you will have no difficulty in forgetting that you ever was in the way of being considered as such. Never take wine after dinner, but with a select number of, at least, equal rank, carefully *collecting the dust* as you enlist volunteers for the snug set. Pay for your bottle before the cork is drawn, even if there should be strangers at table: there can be no greater impropriety in this than settling accounts with a servant for dogs meat and black-ball in the same place. However, I knew a f——n that was so shocked
at

at the indecorum of the proceedings, that by way of reprimand, he called for a wine glass-full of small beer, and audibly ordered it to be put down to his account.

If you are the youngest in rank at the mess, you must push hard for the chair of vice-president at table, which, by military custom, exempts you from the fatiguing office of *boots*, whose duty it is to draw corks, snuff candles, stir the fire, and other matters of menial servility. I remember the good old times, when this post of *skink*
was

was not considered as a duty of fatigue, though resting with the youngest, until the finishing of the fourth bottle a man, when indeed it became a piece of hard labour to find the bell.

It is generally agreed, that those who are in a situation to accumulate, have but a feint inclination to diminish. If, therefore, you are in possession of a *two-fold appointment*, stick to this maxim, which is as much as to say, squeeze hard at œconomy—Make a convenience of the mess, and when, in return

turn for many a *well-blown* jacket, you give a dinner, be sure to “repress the ardors of Bacchus, by communication with the nymphs;” that is, mix water with your wine. For it is proper that your intellects should be in a cool collected state, to prevent imposition in the number of corks drawn, as well as to escort your friends in safety; who must, for the honor of the corps, retire as *drunk as David’s sow*. This salutary system, wisely followed, may enable you to keep a country-house, which will be dignified by the title of the Captain’s

tain's Villa, though it should be no better than that in the burlesque print of Irish dry lodging.

I have been informed, that a committee of o——rs has been some time established, for the purpose of enforcing a wholesome code of regulations for the better government of the messs. This will, I hope, be found to answer the expected end; though, at present, some pseudo-critics have hardly remarked, that the utility of such a body has not yet been *illustrated*, as neither the sideboard
of

of plate, nor the orderly pewter jordan, can boast of greater *brilliancy* since its institution.

END OF THE SECOND PART.



SYMPTOMS

S Y M P T O M S
O F

A D V I C E, &c.

P A R T I I I.

WHEN order'd for em—n,
I would advise, if you have either
m—y or g—n-l—e notions,
to lock them up in the quarter-
master's store-room, with other
things that you may have no occa-
sion

sion for, to be resumed at your return to the d——n.

If you attempt to reconcile the long established repugnance between the r—— and b——, your efforts will prove ineffectual and fruitless. It must be by the mediation of very superior minds where these opposites shall properly incorporate. Prejudices which spring from a dissonance of sentiment and education, when nourished by the imbittering occurrences of situation, are not easily vanquished. I knew an instance of a f——
c——n,

c——n, who from having lost an arm in attempting furtively to secure a piece of mutton for his own picking, which was reserved for the use of the sick, and under the charge of a m——e centinel, ever after felt so much convulsed at the sight of a r— coat, that he pursued the ingenious scheme of placing a brace of them to guard the revolutions of the spit in the galley, with often nothing more than the leg of a fowl stuck on it with a skewer; so that in a short time, so far from a r— coat being visible in the ship, there was only
a

a party of half scorched scare-crows, though most uniformly alike in the dusky hue of their countenances and dress.

Another instance fell under my notice in the E— I —, where a c——n (not of the house of Capulet) whose character of heroism (by the bye) was established on a basis rather equivocal, ordered the m——s to be exercised to leeward on the forecastle, with their faces towards the galley; so that they were compelled to go through the motions with their
 eyes

eyes shut, to prevent being blinded for ever. When this was reported to the higher powers, the party was instantly ordered away with the remark, that the idea of smoke-drying m——s was certainly novel, but the service could not go to the expence of the experiment.

When I first heard of this transaction, I unhesitatingly imputed much odium to the quarter-deck bashaw; but I now consider it as a method of stamping m——s with a clear and permanent character; for it has been on all hands admitted, (I suppose in allusion

lusion to the nature of the establishment) that they are neither *fish* nor *flesh*, but by making *red-herrings* of them the ambiguity is removed.

If you are violently acted on by the military *furor*, and experience (as you may expect) much opposition to its free play, do not vent your spleen on the party in the manner which I have known to be done by one of your body. Whenever this o——r was crossed in his humour, if the men were under arms, and he saw a counte-

F

nance

nance which displeased him, he would seize and pinch the sides of the unfortunate owner, on pretence of setting him up, and stamp on his toes until his passion had evaporated.

As an exception to the general antipathy to military uniformity, I must however mention one instance where the c—— of the f—— was so hobby-horrically inclined to playing at soldiers, that the m——s were incessantly under arms. In short, the martial contagion became so universal, that a nautical phrase

phrase was not to be had for love or money ;—the sailors wore their hair *en queue*, and held their heads up, while the fife and drum ruled all their motions. Even an antiquated lieutenant, created in the proverbial year ninety-two, when in a sudden squall he meant to give the word of command “In top-gallant-fails,” could not avoid bel-
lowing through his trumpet, “Rear ranks close to the front.”

I would advise you to cultivate a good understanding with the p——r of the ship, as the gleanings
F 2 from

from his flour-casks, upon occasion, will enable you to powder your party in a proper smart stile; and the unconsumed ends of his candles prove an admirable substitute for pomatum.

In your first arguments with your aquatic associates, if a point of service falls under discussion, never yield to your opponents, right or wrong. This will procure you the character of a d——d obstinate fellow, who sticks to his point like a rusty weathercock; and will enable you to carry thro' many

many essentials to your own ease, and the material benefit of the party. If the argument happens during dinner, and seasoned with these elegant personalities so much the fauce to ward-room meals, you cannot be at a loss for a reinforcement to your opinion, by applying to the shoulder of mutton, or any other good executive joint that is near you. This wielded with tolerable dexterity and prowess, will bring many converts to your side of the question; and if it is the best part of the repast, (which is by no means unlikely) it will

will make your antagonist particularly cautious, at least with respect to the *time* of his venturing to oppose you in future.

There are many methods by which an o——r of m——s commanding a party, may acquire popularity among the men. I was cotemporary with a c——n, who, ambitious of acquiring that kind of reputation, adopted the idea of taking their heads into his own proper charge; which notion he followed up until he found that it trenched *capitally* on his own disbursements,

burfements, and being ordered for a diftant ftation, he contrived to adulterate the few pounds provided in fuch a manner, that the morning after the firft general powdering, there was not hair enough left on the whole of thefe martial skulls to make an orderly wig for the centinel at the cabin door.

Another method (contrasted to this) of eftablifhing a character of affability and familiar condefcenfion is, by borrowing money from every man of the detachment.

The

The instance of a c——n l——t is well known, who possessed such a general spirit of humility, that there was not even a sweeper in the f—— whom he had not condescended to honour with this mark of his confidence and regard.

There is a description of naval despot, who exercises his paultry resentments under the safe and protecting cloak of service, so that a pretence is never wanting to be troublesome. As council on this head, how to evade or counteract the machinations of such a diabolical

lical spirit, might appear to be meant as an incitement to mutiny, I shall only relate the conduct of a subaltern of m—— in such a predicament. The c——n in one of his dæmoniac fits, ordered the cables to be coiled in the officers cabins. As soon as the fiat was announced, the subaltern posted himself at his cabin-door, with a scymitar of no ordinary dimensions in his hand, and declared, with a blood-chilling oath, “ that it was his castle, and the *tief* that put his head into it, should return without it to tell the story.” Soon
after

after the c——n assured him, that he would be tempted to blow his brains out, unless he submitted to controul: “I’ll tell you what, c——n,” replied he, “I can’t promise to do the same with you, but I’ll try hard to make a hole in your head.”

There was a time when the officer who felt his honour insulted by the brutal tyranny of a f——c——n, might make an appeal to his sword. But now these men of war have adopted, on such occasions of threatened vengeance, a system of legal defence, fimilar
to

to Alscrip's in the Heirefs; so that if you throw the gauntlet of defiance, you are instantly assaulted by the doughty champions, John Doe and Richard Roe, with sticks and staves, knives, scissars, and bodkins. Witness the cruel and unjust decree passed so lately against the spirited and accomplished C____ B____, for a laudable effort of gallantry in avenging his wounded honour. I have been at much pains in consulting professional men and books for an expression of c_____t not liable to the ordeal of a court of law, and
have

have received no small degree of consolation in finding, that a man may p— in another's pocket without laying himself open to prosecution. Now as these gentlemen generally carry all their consequence about them, it is not unlikely but in this operation you may happen to bedew the bit of paper or warrant, (commissions they have none) which vests them with their abused authority ; unless indeed it is inclosed in a tin case, (as the watermen's protections from the impress are) when it may escape the unfavory shower.

When

When a sprig of notorious and murdering piracy finds nourishment in the all-cherishing foil of r—l f——e, of what extraordinary description will the production be? In other words, if a man who has acted the industrious partizan to a nefarious and destructive sea-robber, should, by an act of treachery to that very cause which had been his first election, find an introduction where he should meet with an halter; and afterwards, by the cringing arts of the practised sycophant, arrive at distinguished rank, what idea can
such

such preposterous elevation inspire but that of the vilest of all prostitutions? If it should be your misfortune to meet with such a fungus commander, there will be no difficulty in curbing the insolence which generally attends a rise so unmerited. I cannot set a better model of conduct before you than that of one of your corps, who, on receiving language somewhat harsh and improper from a character of this despicable hue, told him, " Sir, I wear a sword which has never been drawn but *against* the enemies of my country,

try,

try, and which glories in cutting up dishonourable tyranny, though emblazoned with blue and gold."

But this touch of the sublime seeming rather to puzzle, he descended to assure him, (in plainer language than what I now use) that he would seize the first opportune occasion of exercising the *coup de pie*, though at the risk of being indicted by his shoe-maker for prostituting his leather.

) You must be particularly cautious in what dress you embark your party; as I have heard, that

a jessamy fish c——n, who was so far honour'd as to have a detachment of light infantry ordered on board his floating bastile, sunk into hysterics on seeing their *brawny* reverses unprotected with long dress skirts; and was with difficulty recovered by means of tweaks of the nose, and other manly restoratives. Upon recollection, I think there is an ad——y order to prevent accidents of this kind from being fatal to the numerous herd of the constitutionally nervous.

In

If at any time symptoms of mutiny appear to agitate the naturally turbulent minds of the f——n, and their o——rs are in a state of terror and distraction, you may preserve a mind unruffled and easy ; as your party, (if the tenor of your general conduct has been spirited and humane,) is always efficient for the purpose of quelling an undisciplin'd banditti, and will be proud of an occasion to evince attachment to its own o——r. I would undoubtedly always advise the most active zeal in crushing sedition on either element, was

G

there

there not in the public memory an instance, where your's was the only corps in garrison firm to their colours—except the invalids, who are certainly the most *stayed* troops in the world. Formidable as your establishment then was, had you gone with, instead of opposing the general tide of dissension, you might have had your own terms as well as the r——ts. But you valued yourselves on doing your duty, and now experience the comforting consequences of what was ungenerously construed to be a want of f——t; as you have been
frittered

frittered away, on the stale pretence of œconomy, to a mere skeleton; I had almost said, *vox et preterea nihil*, but you have not even a *voice* in the national senate to justify the expression.

One especial caution I wish to impart, and that is against the encroachments which the n—l officers are incessantly labouring to make on the dignity of the m—e centinels. If they for a moment are suffered to forget that portion of the soldier which should be in their composition, there is an o-

pening which will be seized with avidity to sink them in military consequence. As thus; if you allow the ward-room centinel to assist in shaking the biscuit crumbs from the table-cloth after dinner, the next step you may expect is a request for him to clean the first lieutenant's shoes, the day on which he cuts mutton in the great cabin. To prevent any such degradation, I would recommend you to arm him in a way that it will be out of his power to shew any expression of servile activity: put a cut-lafs in one hand, and a pistol in the

the

the other ; strongly inculcate the heinousness of a centinel's quitting his arms, and the serious penalty attached thereto. This will make him preserve such a sculptur'd inflexibility of body and limb, that so far from brushing of old uniforms while on his post, he will not even think of opening the door.

It was the practice at one time, to commit to the charge of the o——rs commanding parties, an annual quantum of cash, for the purpose of altering the old coats
into

into jackets ; but from the intention being seldom fulfilled, I believe it has been discontinued. Indeed I think it a hardship where an officer cannot use a discretionary power in the appropriation of any pittance such as this was, as he must surely be the best judge of the emergencies and wants of the men. How can the notion of wrapping them up in close jackets be compared with the comforting effusion of generous gin ? A man conceives money lost that is devoted to the grasp of the *cross-legg'd crew*, or the purchase of thread

thread and buttons. You will accord with me in opinion, therefore, that by withholding this allowance, an opportunity is lost to the o——r of encreasing his popularity, unless he happens to be of a *monopolizing* spirit. Besides it is so easy a matter to adhere to the letter of the law in this business, as an hour's diligent application of the scissars, will be-jacket the party (at least as far as relates to the want of skirts) as completely as if the operation had been more expensively directed.

On your return from n—l service with a party to quarters, if any clothing remains in your charge by death or desertion, you will have an application from the quarter-master serjeant on pretence of returning it into store. This is an attempt to come *St. Ignatius over you; for as no d—l account is rendered of it, there is no difficulty in knowing how it will be disposed of. This hint may be of utility when you happen to touch at any of the islands where the natives shew a

* St. Ignatius was an *old soldier*, and head of the order of Jesuits.

liking

liking for *European manufacture*. But as there is a general mania amongst the uncivilized for fire-arms, you will find it to your advantage to *expend* a few muskets and cartridges *on service*, to enable you to establish a traffic with them; for I should suppose sheep and bullocks to be a comfortable requisite, unless you are a proper gun-powder devil that can feed on sulphur and iron. I must, however, advise discretion in trading with the stock which the casualties of the party may throw into your power, for I remember
being

being much scandalized at seeing a number of suits of m—e uniforms selling at a public bazar in the E— I—, in the unaltered state they are issued by the contractor, at a time too when we were taught to believe there was no such appointment in store. It is true there was a colourable pretext to gloss over this noon-day transaction, as they were disposing of at the bazar which is called the *thieving one*, as nefarious a mart for stolen goods as that of St. Giles.

END OF THE THIRD PART.

WINDING-UP.

REFLECTING on the many *casual evils* to which your kind of life is peculiarly exposed, in the still hours of peace as well as the bustle of war, I have been led to study a system of prevention, which may, in some degree, palliate these destructive *bodily* complaints, and likewise to consider the application of a few efficacious remedies after they have invaded the frame. I do not empirically

pirically boast of an infallible or compound panacea, but only recommend a few simples that may be found useful. Annexed is the list of

M—E NOSTRUMS.

Preventitive against gun-shot wounds—Promulgation of the received defiance, with the necessary delays for settling affairs, making up your mind, will, &c. that must either cool your adversary, or procure an a—t.

Preventitive against a smack on the face—Shew it but seldom,
and

and avoid convivial meetings as you would shun the devil.

Cure for the same——Jump up and d—n yourself.

Preventitive against a pedestrian application to the rear——Always preserve a good front.

Cure for this uncomfortable sensation——In foul weather a small portion of pipe clay will give *another face* to it for the time, and the *stain* will rub out when it's dry.

Preventitive against a pull'd nose
——A linement of black soap and lamp-black, so that whoever attempts

tempts to commit manual apprehension, may slip his hold and *be-nasty* his fingers.

Cure for it—Put some gun-powder in an oven, and hold your nose pokingly over it until it explodes, which indeed may scorch it, but it will blow away every idea of obloquy.

Preventitive against a rap on the knuckles from a c——g o——r——
Keep always *booing*.

Cure—Kiss the fore place on his —— hand.

It is found that there is no preventive

ventitive against a knock-down blow on the parade; but to avert the dire effects likely to result therefrom, let the parties cross the water, and get into the dominions of a potentate where the laws of h——r are wrote in blood*.

This will prove a *deadly* intent, and as it is mutual, there can be no reason why the executive powers of either should be put to the proof. However, they may go through the motions of taking ground and blowing off p—s, then shake

* That is to say, where the stigma of a blow cannot be done away but with the life of the party bestowing it.

hands,

hands, call each other brave o—rs,
and men of h—r, so return with
hardly-earn'd fame to the duties of
their station; for they have no oc-
casion to doubt but the c—s will
receive them.

As there is a natural and consti-
tutional guard against broken
heads, any suggestion on that well
fortified subject, would be super-
fluous.

Alg. 8.

THE END.

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